

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY

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BEGIN A NEW JOURNEY TO THE STARS-AND BEYOND!!

BASED ON  
CONCEPTS FROM THE  
MGM/STANLEY KUBRICK  
PRODUCTION



# 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY

TM

HE TOOK THE  
ROAD TO  
CONQUEST-  
AND FOUND  
THE STARS!



**"MARAK**  
*the MERCILESS!"*



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STAN LEE PRESENTS:

# 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY™

BASED ON CONCEPTS OF THE MGM MOVIE BY STANLEY KUBRICK AND ARTHUR C. CLARKE

EDITED, WRITTEN  
AND DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** INKED  
BY **MIKE ROYER**

ONE MAN'S JOURNEY TO THE STARS CAN BE A LONG TIME  
IN PREPARATION. BEFORE THERE WERE CITIES TO  
SACK AND TOWNS TO BURN -- THERE WAS

# MAAK!

BREACH  
THE  
WALL!

KILL  
THE  
ENEMY!!

THIS  
IS  
THE  
MONOLITH!! IT IS  
THERE WHEN THE  
STARS COME TO MAN.  
IT IS THERE WHEN  
MAN REACHES OUT FOR  
THE UNIVERSE...

LETTERED BY  
MIKE ROYER  
COLORED BY  
GEORGE ROUSSOS  
CONSULTING  
EDITOR  
ARCHIE  
GOODWIN

WE  
FOLLOW  
WHERE  
MAAK  
LEADS!!

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IT WILL BE 200,000 YEARS BEFORE WHITE COLUMNS AND GREAT STRUCTURES RISE IN ATHENS, GREECE--BUT SOMETHING LIKE ORGANIZED WARFARE IS ALREADY BEING PRACTICED BY A MAN NAMED MARAK!! HE HAS LEARNED THAT MEN CAN BE MANEUVERED BY PRE-ARRANGED PLANNING TO WIPE OUT PRIMITIVE FARMING COMMUNITIES AND TAKE THE PRODUCTS OF THEIR LABOR BY FORCE!!

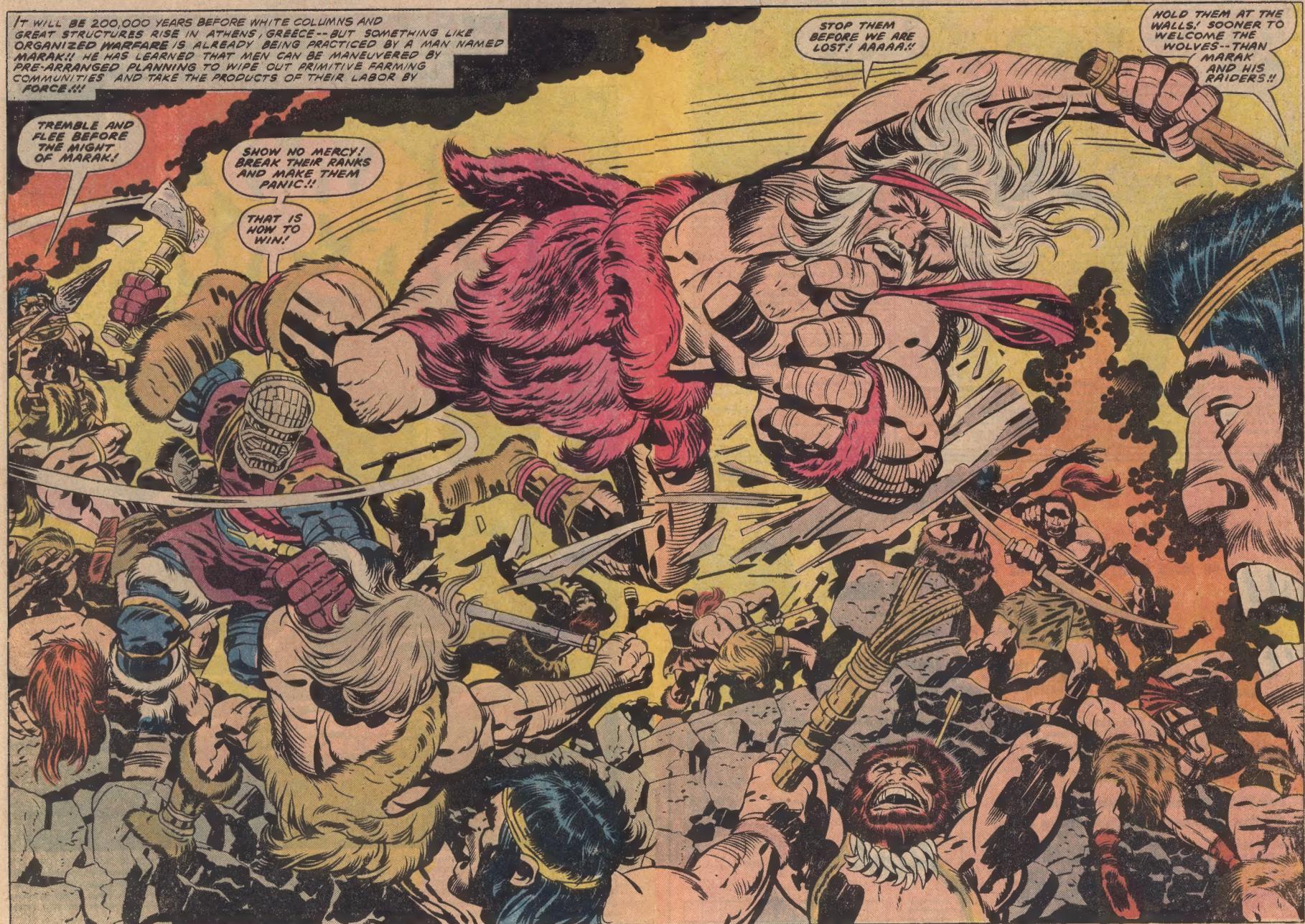
TREMBLE AND FLEE BEFORE THE MIGHT OF MARAK!!

SHOW NO MERCY! BREAK THEIR RANKS AND MAKE THEM PANIC!!

THAT IS HOW TO WIN!

STOP THEM BEFORE WE ARE LOST! AAAA!!

HOLD THEM AT THE WALLS! SOONER TO WELCOME THE WOLVES--THAN MARAK AND HIS RAIDERS!!



MARAK WILL NOT BE CHRONICLED IN THE HISTORY BOOKS THAT WE READ--BUT, FOR THE AGE HE LIVES IN, HE IS A TRUE MILITARY GENIUS WHOSE MAIN OBJECTIVE IS TO BROADEN THE DOMINION OF HIS TRIBE...

SLAY THEM!

A DEAD ENEMY CANNOT STRIKE BACK!

THE ENEMY BREAKS!  
HE RUNS! THIS PLACE IS OURS!!

NOT YET! LOOK INTO THE HUTS!  
FIND THOSE WHO HIDE!!

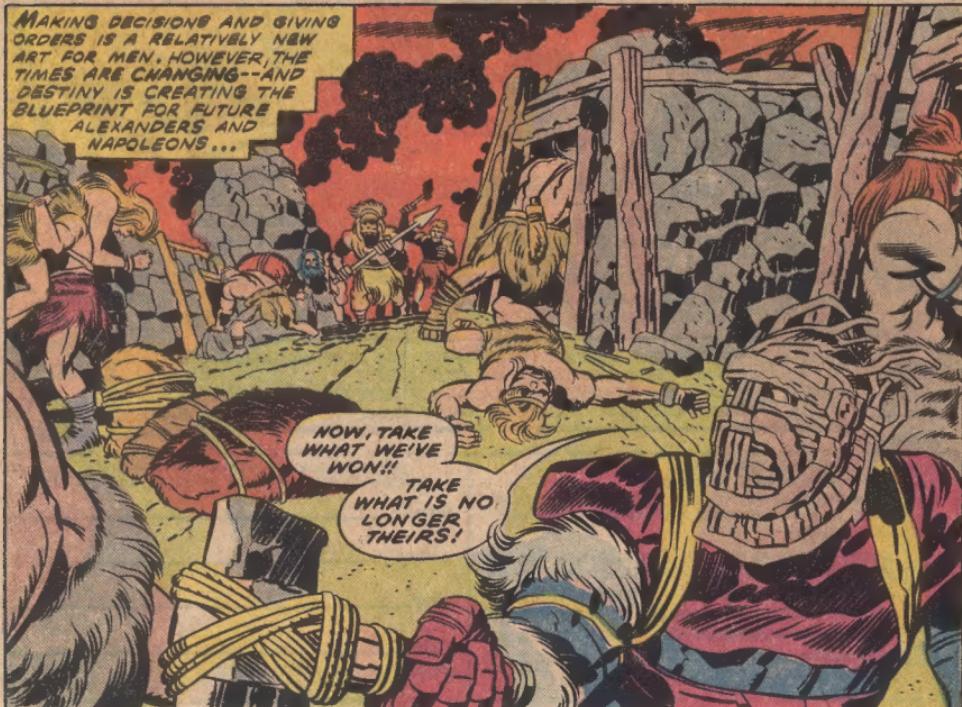
WE OBEY!!



MAKING DECISIONS AND GIVING ORDERS IS A RELATIVELY NEW ART FOR MEN. HOWEVER, THE TIMES ARE CHANGING--AND DESTINY IS CREATING THE BLUEPRINT FOR FUTURE ALEXANDERS AND NAPOLEONS...

NOW, TAKE WHAT WE'VE WON!!

TAKE WHAT IS NO LONGER THEIRS!



SUDDENLY, MARAK'S AXE DISINTEGRATES IN HIS HANDS!!



IN THAT ONE MOMENT, THE BATTLE IS FORGOTTEN, AS MARAK STARES IN DISMAY AT WHAT REMAINS OF HIS WEAPON!

GO BACK! LEAVE THIS PLACE IN PEACE!!



MARAK FACES THE ONE WHO HAS DISARMED HIM WITH SUCH EASE! HE HOLDS A CLUB WHICH LOOKS LIKE SMOOTH STONE AND GLISTENS IN THE SUN!!



WITH A CAUTIOUS EYE ON HIS ENEMY, MARAK ATTEMPTS TO USE A ROCK, BUT...



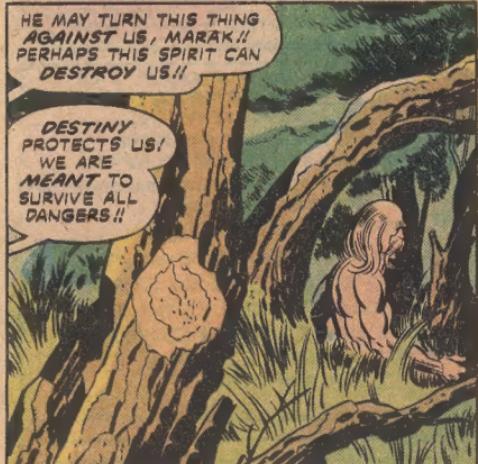
THE ENEMY'S WEAPON SHATTERS THE ROCK AND MARAK'S PEACE OF MIND! HE REMOVES HIS HELMET OF STOUT BARK. IT IS THE UNIVERSAL GESTURE OF TRUCE...



THINK WISELY, OLD ONE! YOU ARE NOW A LONE SHEEP AMONG WOLVES! COUNSEL WITH ME, AND I SHALL PROTECT YOU FROM THE PACK!







FROM THE MONOLITH EMANATES A SOUND STRANGE TO ALL EARTHLY CREATURES. IT IS A SOUND HEARD AMONG THE STARS... YET IT REACHES OUT TO THIS OLD MAN -- AND ENGULFS HIM!



MARAK HAS FOLLOWED AND JOINS THE CONFRONTATION WITH THIS ALIEN PRESENCE. HE IS FILLED WITH SURPRISE AND CONFUSION... BUT NOT WITH FEAR!



SOMEHOW, HIS DOGGED SENSE OF DESTINY HAS BEEN REINFORCED BY THE SIGHT OF THIS MASSIVE STONE THAT HANGS ABOVE GROUND WITHOUT SUPPORT. MARAK TOUCHES IT AND FEELS A STRONG SURGE OF KINSHIP IN THE CONTACT...



THOSE OF MARAK'S RAIDERS WHO WITNESS THE SCENE FROM A RESPECTFUL DISTANCE ARE CAUGHT UP IN THE MYSTIC PROCEEDINGS. THEY PROBE THEIR OWN THOUGHTS AND HEARTS FOR ITS MEANING...



BUT MARAK HIMSELF IS A CAPTIVE OF THE MONOLITH! HE IS BEING SWEEPED ALONG THE LIMITLESS FIELDS OF THE UNIVERSE! SPACE AND TIME HAVE FUSED INSIDE HIS BRAIN TO PRODUCE VISIONS BEYOND HIS OWN IMAGINATION!



THERE ARE MOMENTARY GLIMPSES OF WONDERS THAT TEAR LOOSE MARAK'S EMOTIONS. THIS IS DESTINY IN ITS TRUE IMAGE. THINGS TO BE FELT, BUT NEVER SEEN. BY MEN OF HIS AGE...



BEFORE THESE VISIONS LEAVE HIM, MARAK EXPERIENCES A BRIGHT INNER FLASH! IT REVEALS THE FACE OF A FEMALE--BOTH BEAUTIFUL AND STRONG--THE FACE OF DESTINY--WITHIN HIS REACH...



THEN, AS ABRUPTLY AS IT HAD ILLUMINATED HIS MIND, THE WOMAN'S FACE VANISHES AND REALITY RETURNS. MARAK CONFRONTS ONLY A LARGE, MIRACULOUS STONE--AND HIS OWN DESTINY!

THE SPIRIT HAS SPOKEN TO YOU! IT HAS SHOWN YOU STRANGE THINGS!

IT HAS SHOWN ME THINGS THAT I CANNOT HAVE--AND THINGS THAT I CAN!

IT HAS SHOWN ME JALESSA!!

JALESSA! 'TIS A NAME WHISPERED IN FEAR AT EVENING FIRES, BY STRANGERS FROM DISTANT LANDS!

IN THIS VISION, SHE HAS CHALLENGED ME! I SHALL HAVE THIS FEMALE! I SHALL TAKE HER AND HER FABLED LAND AS WELL!



HAS THE STONE INVOKED A PRIVATE DREAM? OR HAS IT SHOWN THE PATH AHEAD FOR MARAK? AS HE DEPARTS FROM THE MONOLITH, HIS DECISION IS ALREADY MADE...

IF THIS IS YOUR WISH, THEN THE STONE SPIRIT HAS TRULY SPOKEN TO US BOTH!



THE CAMPAIGN BEGINS IN THE OLD ONE'S HUT. MARAK HAS HIS FIRST VIEW OF A FORGE AND THE SHAPING OF A METAL OBJECT...



I AM KNOWN AS EGEL, THE "THING-MAKER!"

I MAKE WHATEVER IS NEEDED BY THOSE WITH A PROBLEM!

MY NEEDS ARE TOO GREAT. FOR ONE PAIR OF HANDS, I SHALL SEND MY MEN TO YOU. THEY SHALL LEARN YOUR SKILLS AND BUILD MY DREAM!



IT IS AN ALLIANCE THAT WILL EXPLODE IN THE STONE AGE AND SEND MAN HEAD-LONG INTO THE BRONZE AGE! THE GENERAL AND THE MASTER ARTISAN LITTLE REALIZE THE SCOPE OF THE REVOLUTION THEY ARE TO GENERATE.

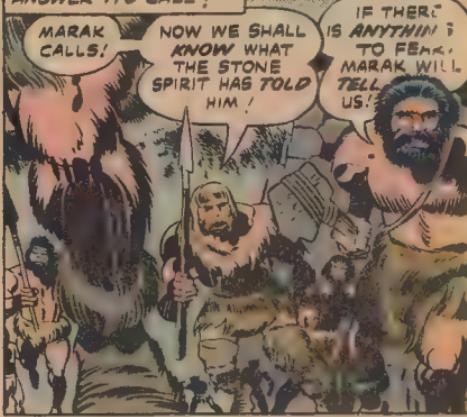
THERE IS MUCH TO DO, AND MANY DISTANCES TO TRAVEL! THIS IS WORK FOR THE MIGHTY!



SOON AFTER, MARAK BIDS THE RAM'S HORN TO BE BLOWN. AS IT SUMMONS HIS MEN TO BATTLE, SO DOES IT BRING THEM TO HIS SIDE...



THE SOUND ECHOES THROUGHOUT THE CONQUERED VILLAGE -- AND THE MEN RUSH TO ANSWER ITS CALL!



THE RAIDERS GATHER. MARAK'S EYES SWEEP ACROSS THE GROUP. HE SEES A FORCE OF GOOD FIGHTERS, BUT IT IS PITIFULLY SMALL FOR WHAT HE HAS IN MIND...



NEED ME, AND WE SHALL BECOME LIKE A MIGHTY HERD! BEFORE THIS GREAT BATTLE I SPEAK OF IS TO BE FOUGHT, WE SHALL MAKE MANY SMALLER RAIDS.



THERE IS A GREAT BATTLE COMING!

IS THIS WHAT THE STONE SPIRIT HAS TOLD YOU?

IS IT, MARAK?

THIS IS OUR WAY! THIS IS HOW WE FIGHT! MARAK HIMSELF HAS TAUGHT US TO DO THIS!

THIS NEW THOUGHT CAN ONLY HAVE COME FROM THE STONE SPIRIT!



MARAK GROWS SILENT! THE STEEL RESOLVE  
IN HIS EYES IS THE ANSWER. THEN, UNDER HIS  
DIRECTION, A MINE IS DUG, AND CERTAIN  
ROCKS DESCRIBED BY EGEL ARE PUT  
ASIDE FOR THE FORGES...

ARE THE STORIES  
TRUE? CAN EGEL  
TURN THESE ROCKS  
INTO A MAGIC  
SUBSTANCE?

IF MARAK  
SAYS HE CAN--  
THEN HE CAN!



THERE ARE MANY FORGES NOW--  
THERE ARE MANY MIGHTY ARMS  
BEATING THE DREAMS OF MARAK  
INTO VISIBLE SHAPE!

KLANG!  
KLANG!  
KLANG!  
KLANG!



A BAN IS IMPOSED UPON THE KILLING OF  
HORSES FOR THEIR MEAT. INSTEAD, THE  
SWIFT CREATURES ARE ROUNDED UP  
AND KEPT IN PENS FOR FURTHER  
ORDERS...

THE SPIRITS  
HAVE STOLEN  
MARAK'S  
SENSES!

WHAT DOES  
HE WISH TO  
DO WITH THESE  
BEASTS?!



THE MEN OF MARAK CAN HARDLY BELIEVE  
THEIR EARS WHEN THE ORDER COMES, BUT,  
AS ALWAYS, THEY GRUMBLE AND OBEY AND  
FROM A RIDICULOUS START THEY BECOME  
THE VANGUARD OF THE CAVALRY CONCEPT.

I-IT CAN'T BE  
DONE! THEY  
WILL NOT  
BEAR US UPON  
THEIR BACKS!

THESE ARE DEFIANT,  
ILL-TEMPERED ANIMALS!  
THEY'LL BREAK OUR  
NECKS BEFORE THIS  
FOLLY ENDS!!



MEANWHILE, NEW RAIDS  
BRING IN NEW MEN. LIKE  
THE HORSES, THEY ARE  
TROUBLESOME IN CAPTIVITY.  
BUT, FOOD AND CARE  
BRING THEM INTO  
MARAK'S FOLD...

MOVE!  
MOVE!

GET THE WORK  
DONE... BUT  
DO NOT ABUSE  
THEM!

THEY MAY WELL BE  
COMRADES-IN-ARMS  
IN TOMORROW'S BATTLES!

I WOULD TAKE  
THEIR HEADS  
NOW!

MOVE  
ON!

MARAK SEEMS TO BE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE.  
NOTHING ESCAPES HIS KEEN EYE OR  
AUTHORITATIVE VOICE...

SEE THAT THESE  
CAPTIVES ARE  
SHELTERED AND  
FED... THEN I  
SHALL SPEAK  
TO THEM.

OUR NUMBERS  
GROW DAILY, MARAK.  
SOON, THIS PLACE  
WILL NOT CONTAIN  
ALL THOSE WHO  
FOLLOW YOU!

THIS AND MANY OTHER FACTORS ARE  
ALREADY PART OF MARAK'S PREOCCUPA-  
TIONS. HIS MIND IS CLOUDED WITH A  
THOUSAND DETAILS, BUT MARAK'S  
REFLEXES ARE NEVER ASLEEP...

MARAK! LOOK  
TO YOURSELF!

WHA--!?

WHO DARES  
TO STAKE  
HIS LIFE  
ON SUCH  
AN ACT!?

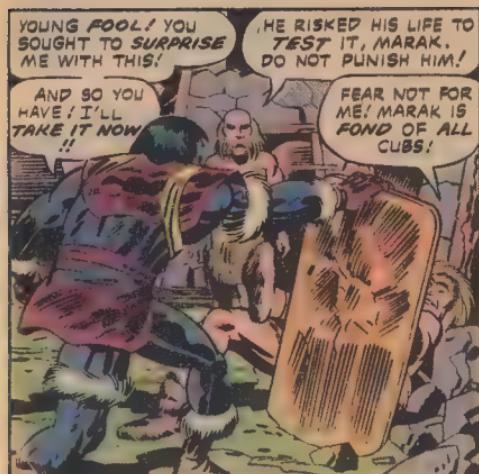
HAHAHAH! GREAT  
MARAK FORGETS HIS  
OWN TEACHINGS!  
HE DREAMS WHILE  
DANGER FLIES!!

THEN SEE HOW  
MUCH YOU'VE  
LEARNED, YOUNG  
CUB! THIS WILL  
NOT HURT--IF  
YOU'RE SWIFT!

THE BOY DOES NOT RUN WHEN MARAK  
RETALIATES. INSTEAD, HE PRODUCES  
A METAL SHIELD  
AND TAKES THE  
FULL FORCE  
OF THE  
THROW  
!!

UGH!  
BUT FOR  
THIS  
PROTECTOR,  
I SHOULD  
BE SLAIN!

BAM!



WHEN MARAK EMERGES FROM OLD EGEL'S HUT OF WONDERS, HE IS MORE MAGNIFICENT TO BEHOLD THAN EVER BEFORE. MARAK IS A GOD IN LEATHER AND METAL... WITH A FLOWING HORSETAIL CROWN, WHICH IS SYMBOLIC OF THE FORCE HE INTENDS TO BUILD. BUT IN HIS HAND IS THE ACHIEVEMENT WHICH IS TO DWARF HIS OWN POWERFUL IMAGE AND WIN HIS PEOPLE THE WORLD OF THE DAWN. THERE ARE NO CHEERS FOR THE BRONZE SWORD -- ITS POTENTIAL IS STILL TOO NEW TO DEFINE!!

THERE ARE GREAT THINGS FOR US TO DO!

WE SHALL RIDE THE LIGHTNING ACROSS MANY LANDS...

--AND SWEEP THEM CLEAN--WITH THIS!!

THIS SPURS A STRONG RUSH OF RAPPORT BETWEEN MARAK AND HIS RAIDERS. GRIPPED BY THE HEADY FEELING OF GREAT DAYS AHEAD, MARAK MAKES AN INSTINCTIVE GESTURE...

TAKE THIS,  
CUB!

WITH THIS  
AND THE  
PROTECTOR,  
I SHALL BE  
INVINCIBLE!

WE SHALL ALL BE  
INVINCIBLE!!

MARAK! MARAK!  
MARAK!!

DO YOU HEAR THAT, EGEL? THE FIGHTING FEVER IS UPON US! YOU HAVE GIVEN US THE MEANS FOR A GREAT CONQUEST!!

NOW, HELP US  
MOVE! HELP US  
MOVE ACROSS A  
VAST DISTANCE!

WE MUST REACH JALESSA'S LAND WITH FOOD AND SUPPLIES. WE CANNOT DRAG OR CARRY THESE THINGS THAT FAR WITH ANY SPEED AT ALL!

BUT THAT IS  
ONE TASK  
AMONG  
MANY  
OTHERS!

SEE, MARAK!  
I HAVE MADE  
THESE STONE  
CASKS! THEY  
WILL KEEP  
FOOD AND  
WATER FRESH  
AND COOL!

AND  
HOW  
ARE WE  
TO  
CARRY  
THESE  
THINGS?

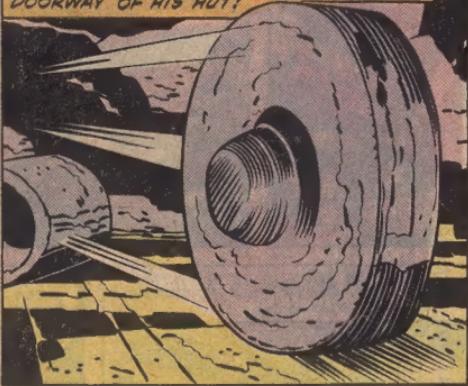
THESE WILL ONLY  
BREAK THE BACKS OF  
MEN AND BEASTS!  
WE SHALL DIE IN THE  
DESERTS AND PERISH  
AMONG THE VERMIN  
OF THE SCRUB LANDS!

YOUR WONDROUS WITS HAVE BROUGHT US  
TOO CLOSE TO THE KILL TO DENY  
US THE BATTLE!!



MARAK IS FILLED WITH THE FURY OF  
FRUSTRATION. HIS FINGERS FASTEN  
MERCILESSLY UPON EGEL, BUT THE  
SPINDLY OLD MAN HAS CEASED STRUGGLING.  
HIS ATTENTION HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY  
A SIGHT OF INCREDIBLE PORTENT...

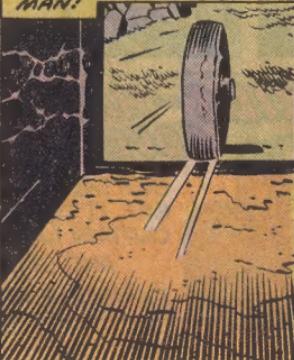
IT IS THE COVER OF THE STONE CASK!  
STRUCK FROM EGEL'S HAND, IT ROLLS  
ACROSS THE FLOOR TOWARD THE OPEN  
DOORWAY OF HIS HUT!



THE COVER ROLLS ON--  
SMOOTHLY, SWIFTLY, EFFORT-  
LESSLY--SPANNING DISTANCE  
AND IGNITING FIRES IN OLD  
EGEL'S BRAIN!



BUT FOR THE PRESENCE OF  
EGEL, THIS SIMPLE ACCIDENT  
WOULD HAVE GONE UNNOTICED.  
NOW, IT WILL GALVANIZE  
THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF  
MAN!



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT WILL  
BLAST YOU OUT OF YOUR  
SEAT!!

THE PAST MERGES WITH  
THE FUTURE IN--  
**WHEELS  
OF  
DEATH!!**  
DON'T MISS IT!!

# MONOLITH MAIL

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Dear Sirs,

Science Fiction.

First termed so in 1929 by a man named Hugo Gernsback, it still thrives today as one of the most incredible forms of literature.

But science fiction existed far earlier than 1929 or Mr. Gernsback. At least 100 years ago, writers such as Jules Verne told of incredible exploits in the air, under the oceans, or even on the moon.

Now many of the futuristic predictions of his stories are taken-for-granted facts of today.

Many of the pulp magazines which Mr. Gernsback founded still thrive today, 50 years later.

And, of course, the art.

Masters such as Frank Paul, Virgil Finlay, Kelly Freas, and Chesley Bonestell, capturing science fiction on canvas and paper.

Today, I picked up a copy of the 2001 Treasury and found it flawless. Jack Kirby did a job on visual presentation well worth recognition. Now I hear that it will appear as a regular on the Marvel line-up. If the series carries any of the excellence of this book, you have a winner.

With the right producers, science fiction can be one of the most entertaining forms of fantasy.

You have a height of perfection that you are rapidly closing in on. I hope you continue to create stories such as these, and someday in the near future attain this level.

Jim Mullen  
P.O. Box 87  
Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889

Dear Sirs,

2001 was about as good as you could make it, I guess, but it was still fairly mediocre. The story lacks the fast pace and the action that generally accompany a good comic-book story. And the medium is hopelessly inadequate to convey the majesty and the beauty that made the movie a classic.

I don't think the monthly series will be any good at all.

Paul Foster  
4271 Lake Road  
Youngstown, OH 44511

Ah, c'mon, Paul! Give us a chance.

After all, it's not our intention to duplicate the "majesty and the beauty" of the movie. The aim of this book is to use the film as a springboard to all of the fantastic projections of future life and experience that there might be. So hang in there, and see if we can make our fantasy-worlds ring true!

Dear Jack,

I just picked up 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY, and it's much better than I expected. Since your return to Marvel, your art has been getting better and better. At this point I don't think that even you could improve any more. With just one issue, 2001 is on my list of six top Marvel comics. Keep up the good work.

Mike Weston  
35 Tuxedo Drive  
Wayne, NJ 07470

Well, thanks, Mike. But you've got us wondering, what are those other five titles?

Dear Jack,

Well, you've done it again. You've created another fantastic new comic. Kirby and science fiction go together like *Starsky and Hutch*! There is no one who can draw-and-write science fiction better than you. Thank you for another "escape from reality."

Gary Tepper

24080 Sherborne Road  
Bedford Heights, OH 44146

Dear Jack,

I just read the new Marvel title, 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY, and it raises a few questions in my mind...mostly questions about the future of the title.

Let me look at the book and raise these questions. The story begins with an episode about the transition period of when man evolved from beast, with the tutoring of the Monolith. While of passing interest, will this be a continuing feature of the book? Will we be following "the one who hunts alone" throughout his evolution?

The next episode follows Woodrow Decker's elevation to fetal godhood. Will this evolution be a feature of every issue? Will we see Decker again? How can you continue to have new fetal evolutions if all who undergo such are astronauts? I'm sure that even 2001 A.D. does not have such space travel as an everyday experience.

Will there be any continuing characters? Any feature characters? Any sort of continuing storyline? Any end to 2001 when it temporally reaches 2002?

One major complaint I have about the book is its lack of the absence of verbiage. Kubrick's movie had a strength in it that made it independent of narrative. Jack, you seem to be wanting to make up for that by over-speaking the story. Do you realize that there were only five panels in the book without a wordy caption? And that some captions had more than one? Gack!

I just hope and pray that you keep this title away from the rest of the Marvel characters (I shudder to think of MARVEL TEAM-UP featuring Spider-Man and the Monolith).

Well, until Howard the Duck becomes a Star-Chick...

Berk Enwald

80 Van Cortland Park South  
Bronx, NY 10463

Howard? A Star-Chick? No chance, Berk! No chance at all! Now a Star-Duckling...

Seriously, though, the 2001 saga is removed from the regular Marvel continuity line—much in the same manner that our PLANET OF THE APES book is. They simply represent alternate realities.

As to your questions about continuing characters and evolution—well, they were at least partly answered with this issue. No, fetal evolutions are not a requirement of every story. And, yes, characters may well continue from one issue to the next...as witness Marak.

As to the overabundance of captions, we can only say that we'll try to watch it in the future, Mr. E. Okay?

# 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY

scanned by \*Wizard\*



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